

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois Youthbuild Act is amended by  
5 changing Sections 15, 25, 30, 35, and 40 and by adding Section  
6 45 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 1315/15)

8 Sec. 15. Program requirements. The Secretary shall,  
9 subject to appropriation, ~~is authorized to~~ make grants to  
10 applicants for the purpose of carrying out Youthbuild programs  
11 as approved under this Section. All programs funded pursuant to  
12 the provisions of this Section shall reflect strong youth and  
13 community involvement. In addition, funding provided under  
14 this Section shall be used by each Youthbuild program to  
15 provide, at a minimum, the following services:

16 (a) Acquisition, rehabilitation, acquisition and  
17 rehabilitation, or construction of housing and related  
18 facilities to be used for the purpose of providing home  
19 ownership for disadvantaged persons, residential housing for  
20 homeless individuals, and low-income and very low-income  
21 families, or transitional housing for persons who are homeless,  
22 have disabilities, are ill, are deinstitutionalized, or have  
23 special needs, and rehabilitation or construction of community

1 facilities owned by not-for-profit or public agencies.

2 (b) Integrated education and job skills training services  
3 and activities which are evenly divided within the program,  
4 with 50% of students' time spent in classroom-based  
5 instruction, counseling, and leadership development  
6 instruction and 50% of their time spent in experiential  
7 training on the construction site. The programs shall include,  
8 at a minimum, the following elements:

9 (1) An education component which includes basic skills  
10 instruction, secondary education services, and other  
11 activities designed to lead to the attainment of a high  
12 school diploma or its equivalent. The curriculum for this  
13 component shall include math, language arts, vocational  
14 education, life skills training, social studies related to  
15 the cultural and community history of the students,  
16 leadership skills, and other topics at the discretion of  
17 the programs. Bilingual services shall be available for  
18 individuals with limited-English proficiency. The desired  
19 minimum teacher to student ratio shall be one teacher for  
20 every 18 students.

21 (2) A work experience and skills training component  
22 ~~apprenticeship~~ program that includes the construction and  
23 rehabilitation activities described in subsection (a). The  
24 process of construction must be coupled with skills  
25 training and with close on-site supervision by experienced  
26 trainers. The curriculum for this component shall contain a

1 set of locally agreed upon skills and competencies that are  
2 systematically taught, with a student's mastery assessed  
3 individually on a regular, ongoing basis. Safety skills  
4 shall be taught at the outset. The desired trainer to  
5 student ratio shall be one trainer for every 7 students.  
6 The work experience and skills training component shall be  
7 coordinated to the maximum extent feasible with  
8 preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.

9 (3) Assistance in attaining post secondary education  
10 and required financial aid shall be made available to  
11 participants prior to graduation.

12 (c) Counseling services designed to assist participants to  
13 positively participate in society, which should include all of  
14 the following if necessary: outreach, assessment, and  
15 orientation; individual and peer counseling; life skills  
16 training, drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention; and  
17 referral to appropriate drug rehabilitation, medical, mental  
18 health, legal, housing, and other services and resources in the  
19 community. The desired counselor to participant ratio shall be  
20 one counselor for every 28 students.

21 (d) Leadership development training that provides  
22 participants with meaningful opportunities to develop  
23 leadership skills such as decision making, problem solving, and  
24 negotiating. The program must also encourage participants to  
25 develop strong peer group ties that support their mutual  
26 pursuit of skills and values.

1 All programs must establish a youth council in which  
2 participants are afforded opportunities to develop public  
3 speaking and negotiating skills, and management and policy  
4 making participation in specific aspects of the program.

5 (e) Stipends and wages. A training subsidy, living  
6 allowance, or stipend that will be no less than minimum wage  
7 must be provided to program participants for the time spent at  
8 the worksite in construction training. For those participants  
9 who receive public assistance, this training subsidy, living  
10 allowance, or stipend will not affect their housing benefits,  
11 medical benefits, child care benefits or food stamp benefits.  
12 Stipends and wages may be distributed in a manner that offers  
13 incentives for good performance.

14 (f) Full time participation in a Youthbuild program shall  
15 be offered for a period of not less than 6 months and not more  
16 than 24 months.

17 (g) A concentrated effort shall be made to find  
18 construction, construction-related, and nonconstruction jobs  
19 for all graduates of the program who have performed well. The  
20 skills training curriculum shall provide participants with  
21 basic preparation for seeking and maintaining a job. Follow-up  
22 counseling and assistance in job-seeking shall also be provided  
23 to participants for at least ~~the~~ 12 months following graduation  
24 from the program.

25 (h) All programs serving 28 trainees or more are required  
26 to have a full-time director responsible for the coordination

1 of all aspects of the Youthbuild program.

2 (Source: P.A. 90-247, eff. 1-1-98.)

3 (20 ILCS 1315/25)

4 Sec. 25. Eligible participants. Eligible participants are  
5 youth 16 to 24 years old who are economically disadvantaged as  
6 defined in United States Code, Title 29, Section 1503, and who  
7 are part of one of the following groups:

8 (a) Persons who are not attending any school and have not  
9 received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent.

10 (b) Persons currently enrolled in a traditional or  
11 alternative school setting or a GED program and who are in  
12 danger of dropping out of school.

13 (c) A member of a low-income family, a youth in foster care  
14 (including a youth aging-out of foster care), a youth offender,  
15 a youth with a disability, a child of incarcerated parents, or  
16 a migrant youth ~~Very low income persons.~~

17 Not more than ~~Up to~~ 25% of the participants in the program  
18 may be individuals who do not meet the requirements of  
19 subsections (a) or ~~7~~ (b) ~~7~~ ~~and~~ ~~(c)~~, but who are deficient in  
20 basic skills despite having attained a secondary school  
21 diploma, General Educational Development (GED) certificate, or  
22 other State-recognized equivalent, or who have been referred by  
23 a local secondary school for participation in a Youthbuild  
24 program leading to the attainment of a secondary school diploma  
25 ~~have educational needs despite the attainment of a high school~~

1 ~~diploma.~~

2 (Source: P.A. 90-247, eff. 1-1-98.)

3 (20 ILCS 1315/30)

4 Sec. 30. Selection criteria. Priority in the awarding of  
5 funds under this Act shall be given to applicants with  
6 experience in operating Youthbuild programs. Organizations  
7 claiming to have operated Youthbuild programs must be licensed  
8 by Youthbuild USA or be organizations that have received  
9 federal ~~HUD~~ Youthbuild funding.

10 (Source: P.A. 90-247, eff. 1-1-98.)

11 (20 ILCS 1315/35)

12 Sec. 35. Eligible entities. Those eligible to be awarded  
13 funds under this Act are not-for-profit private agencies, or  
14 public agencies with experience operating a Youthbuild program  
15 or with a plan to incubate a Youthbuild program until it can be  
16 established as a program applicant ~~not for profit private~~  
17 ~~agency~~.

18 (Source: P.A. 90-247, eff. 1-1-98.)

19 (20 ILCS 1315/40)

20 Sec. 40. Application requirements. The Secretary shall  
21 require that an application for Youthbuild funds under this Act  
22 contain at a minimum:

23 (1) a request for an implementation grant, specifying the

1 amount of the grant requested and its proposed uses;

2 (2) a description of the applicant and a statement of its  
3 qualifications, including a description of the applicant's  
4 past experience running a Youthbuild program, and with housing  
5 rehabilitation or construction and with youth and youth  
6 education, youth leadership development and employment  
7 training programs, and its relationship with local unions and  
8 youth apprenticeship programs, and other community groups;

9 (3) a description of the proposed construction site for the  
10 program and evidence of site control;

11 (4) a description of the educational and job training  
12 activities, work opportunities, and other services that will be  
13 provided to participants;

14 (5) a description of the proposed construction or  
15 rehabilitation activities to be undertaken and the anticipated  
16 schedule for carrying out such activities;

17 (6) a description of the manner in which eligible youths  
18 will be recruited and selected, including a description of the  
19 arrangements which will be made with community-based  
20 organizations, local educational agencies, including agencies  
21 of Native American nations, public assistance agencies, the  
22 courts of jurisdiction for status and youth offenders, shelters  
23 for homeless individuals and other agencies that serve homeless  
24 youth, foster care agencies, and other appropriate public and  
25 private agencies;

26 (7) a description of the special efforts that will be

1 undertaken to recruit eligible young women (including young  
2 women with dependent children) with appropriate supports,  
3 especially childcare;

4 (8) a description of how the proposed program will be  
5 coordinated with other federal, State, and local activities and  
6 activities conducted by Native American nations, including  
7 public schools, national service, crime prevention programs,  
8 vocational, adult, and bilingual education programs, and job  
9 training;

10 (9) assurances that there will be a sufficient number of  
11 adequately trained supervisory personnel in the program who  
12 have attained the level of journeyman or its equivalent;

13 (10) a description of the applicant's relationship with any  
14 local building trade unions which may exist, regarding their  
15 involvement in training, and the relationship of the Youthbuild  
16 program with registered ~~established~~ apprenticeship programs;

17 (11) a description of activities that will be undertaken to  
18 develop the leadership skills of participants, including their  
19 role in decision making;

20 (12) a detailed budget and a description of the system of  
21 fiscal controls and auditing and accountability procedures  
22 that will be used to ensure fiscal soundness;

23 (13) a description of any contracts and arrangements  
24 entered into between the applicant and other agencies and  
25 entities including all in-kind donations and grants from both  
26 public and private entities that will serve to augment Illinois

1 Youthbuild Act funds;

2 (14) identification and description of the financing  
3 proposed for any:

4 (A) acquisition of the property;

5 (B) rehabilitation; or

6 (C) construction;

7 (15) identification and description of the entity that will  
8 operate and manage the property;

9 (16) a certification that the applicant will comply with  
10 the requirements of the Fair Housing Act, Title VI of the Civil  
11 Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of  
12 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and will  
13 affirmatively further fair housing; and

14 (17) the qualifications and past experience of the person  
15 who will fill the full-time program director position.

16 (Source: P.A. 90-247, eff. 1-1-98.)

17 (20 ILCS 1315/45 new)

18 Sec. 45. Annual report. The Department of Human Services  
19 shall prepare an annual report summarizing costs and outcome  
20 data associated with the Youthbuild programs. The report must  
21 include, but not be limited to, the following information: (i)  
22 the number of participants in the program, (ii) the average  
23 cost per participant, (iii) the number of participants who  
24 achieve a high school diploma or its equivalent, and (iv) the  
25 number of projects completed by Youthbuild participants during

1 that year. The Department must submit the report to the General  
2 Assembly by July 1, 2008 and by July 1 of each year thereafter.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
4 becoming law.